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CESSDA Annual Report 2023

Disclaimer

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Foreword by the Chair

The core business of CESSDA ERIC is to create and sustain a network of trusted data archives for social science research data. On the national level, Service Providers deliver the services, ingest, process, and distribute archived data for reuse and functioning in a FAIR-enabling manner. CESSDA ERIC is more than just the sum of its Service Providers and functions of its Main Office. In this foreword, I wish to give you some of the highlights from our Service Providers.

The year 2023 was marked with important milestones within the CESSDA consortium. First, the CESSDA community was pleased to welcome Switzerland as a full member of CESSDA ERIC. The Swiss Service Provider, FORS, has been an invaluable contributor since the beginning of the consortium. Then two of the Service Providers celebrated their anniversaries in 2023. The Czech Social Science Data Archive (CSDA) has served their national research community for over 25 years and the Austrian Social Science Data Archive (AUSSDA) has been in operation for 5 years now. Both are good examples of different but equally efficient approaches in organising data archiving services. CSDA is part of the Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, whereas the AUSSDA is a national consortium of four universities, Universities of Vienna, Graz, Linz, and Innsbruck.

Another cause to applaud is the continued support of Czech colleagues to the Ukrainians after the war started. Their support is key to rescue social science data from potentially being destroyed in the war. In 2023 the CESSDA General Assembly decided to support this work also financially.

We in the CESSDA community are looking forward to a future of continuing cooperation between the Service Providers to build an even stronger consortium and seeking closer relations to other research infrastructures. The Annual Report 2023 displays the variety of activities CESSDA is involved in.

Helena Laaksonen, Chair of the General Assembly

Foreword by the CESSDA Director

In 2023 CESSDA gained visibility at the European level. CESSDA was recognised in the new Horizon Europe Programme Guide and the Open Research Europe publishing platform for its contribution to Open Science practices. This recognition of CESSDA as an Open Research Europe-approved repository demonstrated the importance of trusted repositories in Open Science practices. CESSDA was also present at the conference on the potential of research data under the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in Lund, Sweden.

In 2023 the preparations for a new CESSDA strategy started. And at the end of the year the strategy 2023-2027 was published and strategic projects were launched. One of the projects was O.S.C.A.R.S. the proposal preparations of the Open Science Clusters' Action for Research and Society with the aim to support the uptake of open science practices through the engagement with EOSC.

Regarding the fostering of cross disciplinary research CESSDA and CODATA (the Committee on Data) of the International Science Council (ISC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote the principles of Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR) data for Social Sciences and other research disciplines. The collaboration represents a significant step forward in the collective efforts to enhance the impact of CESSDA in the research infrastructure and research data landscape at European and global level.

Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch, CEO

CESSDA 2023 Highlights
European Landscape

CESSDA Recognised for its Contributions to Open Science Best Practices

CESSDA has been recognised in the new Horizon Europe Programme Guide and the Open Research Europe publishing platform for its contribution to Open Science practices[1]. These recognitions highlight the importance of trusted repositories in Open Science practices, particularly in preserving and making research data accessible.

The new Horizon Europe Programme Guide, published on the 1st April 2023, includes a section on Open Science. It recognises the importance of Open Science practices, metadata standards and research data management guidelines and CESSDA as a relevant research infrastructure that provides Data Management guidelines and good practices for the Social Sciences.

This recognition in the Horizon Europe Programme Guide demonstrates the importance of CESSDA in promoting and supporting Open Science practices and FAIR data. CESSDA has been providing data management services to the social sciences researchers for over 50 years. This recognition is a testament to the expertise and quality of services that CESSDA and its' data archives provide.

CESSDA archives are also listed in the Open Research Europe publishing platform, launched by the European Commission in 2021[2]. CESSDA provides open access to scientific research publications and strongly encourages the use of certified or trusted community-recognised repositories as the first choice for depositing data. CESSDA is listed under "How to publish open data, software, and code guidelines" as an Open Research Europe-approved repository.

This recognition of CESSDA as an Open Research Europe-approved repository is a significant achievement for CESSDA. It demonstrates the importance of trusted repositories in Open Science practices. By depositing data in trusted repositories, researchers can ensure the long-term preservation and accessibility of their research data, making it easier for other researchers to access and reuse the data for new research.

Fig 1: CESSDA recognised for its contributions to Open Science best practices

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1   https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/programme-guide_horizon_en.pdf
2   https://open-research-europe.ec.europa.eu/for-authors/data-guidelines

International Landscape

MoU between CESSDA and CODATA

CESSDA and CODATA (the Committee on Data) of the International Science Council have formalised a strategic partnership through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding underlining their joint commitment to advancing interdisciplinary research and promoting the principles of Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR) data for Social Sciences and other research disciplines.[3][4]

The collaborative venture stems from a shared recognition by CODATA and CESSDA that addressing major global challenges necessitates robust and trusted research infrastructures cutting across societal, ecological, and economic domains. Both organisations are united in their goal of advancing interdisciplinary research to tackle global challenges, while recognizing the pivotal role of social sciences data in this context. The collaboration aims to enhance capacity in supporting interdisciplinary research while implementing FAIR principles and ethical requirements.

"The collaboration between CESSDA and CODATA represents a significant step forward in the collective efforts to enhance the impact of research infrastructures and research data at European and global level.

Fig 2: CEO of CODATA and CESSDA at the International Science Data Week 2023 in Salzburg after signing the Memorandum of Understanding.

3   https://codata.org/about-codata/
4   https://www.cessda.eu/News/CESSDA-Newsitem-nid3636

CESSDA Governance

The General Assembly of CESSDA met in June in Malmø, Sweden, and November in Barcelona, Spain 2023. The CESSDA Service Providers' Forum (SPF), an advisory body to the Director, consisting of representatives of CESSDA national Service Providers met in April and two times in October 2023.

The major discussion points in the CESSDA bodies were:

→ Finalisation of the consultation process for a new strategy cycle for the period 2023-2027 (see chapter below).
→ Consultation of new working group topics aligned with the upcoming CESSDA strategy.
→ Participation in diverse activities and tasks in the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) and EC Projects.
→ Fostering existing and new partnerships (see chapter researchers and data experts).

Connecting Data & People
in a Changing Landscape
CESSDA Strategy
2023-2027

Fig 3. CESSDA Strategy Booklet

CESSDA New Strategy Cycle 2023-2027

After a year of consultation with its constituencies, CESSDA ERIC has launched its new strategy cycle 2023-2027.[5] The new strategy captures the latest developments in the research data landscape and in the European Research Area (ERA): the digital transformation of data and software; the increasing cross-fertilisation and FAIRification of research and the way it is conducted and rewarded; and looks ahead to the growth and potential uses of the research data economy.

CESSDA collectively will focus on three strategic strands: DATA, PEOPLE and LANDSCAPE (in terms of how data influences the research community, policy and society) to provide services to CESSDA members, the European social sciences research community and stakeholders from policy and industry.[6]

CESSDA Policies

CESSDA Third Party Access Policy

In 2023 CESSDA was solicited by different stakeholders from the Social Sciences, professional networks and public institutions to either use CESSDA tools such as the CESSDA Vocabulary Service to curate their controlled vocabularies or to onboard their study metadata into the CESSDA Data Catalogue. The interest of those stakeholders showcases the potential value of CESSDA tools and services for external parties. While CESSDA's tools and services are in general open for use by all, onboarding and curation of data/metadata comes at a cost that is currently borne by CESSDA's members. Therefore, CESSDA will set up one or more pilots with external partners to explore a fair access mechanism for non-members that will not disadvantage the membership.

5   https://www.cessda.eu/Strategy-Expertise?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=cessda_newsletter_launching_our_strategy_2023_2027&utm_term=2023-10-05
6   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g0lqslahctg

CESSDA, Member States and Partner Organisations

Switzerland Became a Full Member of CESSDA ERIC

Switzerland has been granted full membership in the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA ERIC), as unanimously approved by the CESSDA General Assembly on June 8, 2023.

Previously, Swiss participation in European research infrastructures was limited to observer status. However, in December 2022, the Swiss Parliament created the legal framework for Switzerland to become a full member of European Research Infrastructure Consortia and allowed Switzerland to request full membership in CESSDA along with five other ERICs. As a result of this development, Switzerland will now have a formal voice in CESSDA decision-making through its member status and voting rights in the CESSDA ERIC General Assembly.

Fig. 4 Switzerland became a full member of CESSDA ERIC in 2023

CESSDA Supporting Social Sciences in the Ukraine

The operations of the Kyiv Archive were greatly impacted by the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, leading to the urgency to safeguard the valuable data accumulated and the risks of it being destroyed. In response, the CESSDA General Assembly has approved a special line of funding to support the Kyiv Archive. In particular the upgrade of the archive to the international standards and to provide support to its operations. The CESSDA Service Provider in Czechia extended its aid to the Ukrainian data archive. As part of this collaboration, the Czech Social Data Archive (CSDA) offered mentoring and assistance to enhance the institutional capabilities of the Kyiv Archive.

Fig 5. CESSDA supporting Ukraine data archive

The Kyiv Archive, operational since 2015 is the sole data service in Ukraine dedicated to collecting, preserving, and granting open access to sociological data for a diverse user base. The collection includes more than 200 surveys from the 1990s to the present on a wide range of topics encompassing themes such as the geopolitical situation, state independence, Euromaidan, the Russian-Ukrainian war, trust in social institutions, social well-being, self-rated health, and interethnic tolerance. Every year the Kyiv Archive receives over 100 requests from Ukranians and European researchers showcasing the demand for such datasets for researching diverse facets of social change in Ukraine.

Though Ukraine is not yet a CESSDA member, the Kyiv Archive has actively cooperated in the CESSDA´s network and is integrated in the wider CESSDA community. In May 2023 a webinar on Ukraine in European Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences and Humanities co-organised by the ESFRI Strategy Working Group Social and Cultural Innovation and EASSH attracted significant interest.[7] CESSDA and other SSH research infrastructures provided best practices on how to involve Ukraine in European research infrastructures. CESSDA has also issued a statement on Ukraine.[8]

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7   https://eassh.eu/EASSH-Documents/Events/Scientific%20Data%20about%20Society%20in%20Ukraine/2023_06_06_
    Webinar_Scientific_Data_about_Society_in_Ukraine_Report_final.pdf
8   https://www.cessda.eu/News/CESSDA-Newsitem-nid2638

CESSDA at the Swedish Presidency Conference

Under the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union a conference on the potential of research data and how research infrastructures provide new opportunities and benefits for society took place in Lund, Sweden from 19 to 21 June. CESSDA's Director was invited to speak on the effects of digitisation on research and wider society along with Gustav Kalbe from DG Connect (European Commission), Joe Miller from GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility), Hanne Monclair, Senior Science and Technology Policy Adviser at the Ministry of Education and Research, Norway and Anders Broo, Executive Director, Head of Data

Fig 6: Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch delivering her speech at the Swedish Presidency Conference

Science and Modelling, AstraZeneca. The three most important points from Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch were: 1) Data that cannot be found by scientists, citizens or decision makers hampers the sharing of knowledge, best practices, and innovation 2) data needs to be FAIR, and 3) research infrastructures need long-term funding. This resonated with the Lund Declaration on Maximising the Benefits of Research Data.[9]

Researchers and Data communities

CESSDA in the SSH Open Cluster

In 2023, CESSDA was participating in the leadership of the SSH Open Cluster, with CESSDA Director Wolff-Boenisch being the first ever Vice-Chair, alongside DARIAH Director Tasovac. The eleven members of the SSH Open Cluster Governing Board (all ESFRI SSH Landmarks and Projects) met regularly during the year to discuss important matters within their joint domain. The entire membership has reached 19 distributed research infrastructures and institutions in 2023, which was formalised during two Assemblies held in April and October 2023. The events marked an important milestone since the SSHOC project ended in early 2022. The events attracted over 70 participants from funding agencies, research institutions,

Fig 7. Second SSHOC Assembly was held in October 2023

project partners, and all ESFRI Landmarks and Projects from the Group Social and Cultural Innovation.

Among other topics, the Assembly prioritised:

➜ The SSHOC Open Marketplace Sustainability Model
➜ The collaboration of the EU Science Clusters
➜ The need to reinforce the importance of collaboration among SSH players

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9   https://swedish-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/events/the-potential-of-research-data-how-research-infrastructures-provide-new-opportunities-and-benefits-for-society-19-206/

CESSDA at ESRA 2023

The European Survey Research Association's first in-person conference post-COVID, ESRA 2023, saw enthusiastic participants highlighting advancements in survey research in Milan, Italy. CESSDA organised two sessions focusing on best practices in Research Data Management amidst the pandemic. Topics included the management of large-scale surveys during COVID, collaboration between researchers and data repositories, mobilisation of repositories for pandemic response, support of researchers during the pandemic, data repositories as research partners, challenges in data collection, enhancement of data discovery through metadata, and archiving and data sharing during a pandemic. Presenters discussed innovative approaches, tools, and services to improve research transparency, accessibility, and visibility. Challenges included adapting to remote work, maintaining data quality, and addressing consent and documentation issues. The conference emphasised the importance of efficient data management, collaboration, and adaptability in navigating the complexities of today's research landscape, particularly during disruptive events like the COVID-19 pandemic.[10]

Fig 8. CESSDA at ESRA 2023

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10   https://www.cessda.eu/News/CESSDA-Newsitem-nid3608

CESSDA Consortium Activities

In 2023 CESSDA focussed on the following areas: Tools & Services, Trust & Standards, Training & Outreach, Mentorship Programmes, the Widening of the perimeter of data and Journal Outreach.

Tools & Services

The Tools & Services Working Group (Tools Working Group) focused on the user's perspective of researchers and Service Providers. The group monitored the status of CESSDA's services, coordinated and evaluated tasks. In addition, maintenance of the group enhanced the available CESSDA services and provided direction to new and future services. The group provided a discussion forum for the Service Providers and organised online 'Tools Open Hours' to exchange best practices on CESSDAs tools and services, Dataverse, and metadata validation. The working group supported CESSDA's goal to provide appropriate tools and services for Service Providers and researchers to curate, preserve, publish, find, access and re-use research data in a multilingual environment.

Highlights in 2023

The Tools Working Group Leader was a member of the EOSC Task Force on FAIR Metrics and Data Quality that was tasked with implementing FAIR metrics for EOSC by assessing their applicability across research communities and testing a range of tools to enable uptake (see below under CESSDAs involvement in EOSC). This EOSC Task Force made recommendations on metrics and tools, the governance of FAIR, and surveyed the state of the art of FAIR and data quality.[11]

CESSDA Data Catalogue

The user experience of the CESSDA Data Catalogue (CDC)[12] was enhanced by adding a function that enables the filtering of search results immediately based on keywords, and by improving the visibility of topic classifications and keywords on the individual data description pages. In addition, accessibility improvements were made and an accessibility statement is now available for the CDC.

CESSDA ELSST Thesaurus

The European Language Social Science Thesaurus (ELSST) is a broad-based, multilingual thesaurus for the social sciences. It is available in fifteen languages: Czech, Dutch, Finnish, English, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Icelandic, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Romanian, Slovenian, Spanish and Swedish. According to web statistics, ELSST is used worldwide. The September 2023 release of ELSST (Version 4) included the revision of the CIVIL STATUS hierarchy, and the introduction of new concepts (terms) reflecting changes in working and learning/teaching environments associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. A major focus in the content development phase of ELSST in 2023 was to increase the diversity and inclusivity of our concepts. Our approach was outlined in our new Inclusivity Statement.[13] Another focus area was closer interaction with the CDC.

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11 https://eosc.eu/advisory-groups/fair-metrics-and-data-quality
12 https://datacatalogue.cessda.eu/
13 https://elsst.cessda.eu/guide/inclusivity

CESSDA Vocabulary Service

The release to production of CESSDA Vocabulary Service (CVS) marked a milestone in its development. The CVS enables users to discover, browse, and download controlled vocabularies in many languages. Downloading is possible in SKOS, HTML and PDF formats, in the languages selected. The service contains an Editor, where authorised users can create, manage and translate vocabularies within their Agency. Users of the CVS include researchers, translators and administrators of controlled vocabularies, and data repositories providing metadata.[14]

CESSDA Euro Question Bank

The CESSDA Euro Question Bank (EQB) is envisioned as a cross-national question bank that will integrate and display metadata from several European archives, mostly CESSDA Service Providers. Work on the EQB continued in 2023 together with a group of active several Service Providers that are keen to develop EQB, and the service was launched internally.

CESSDA and Dataverse

Several CESSDA Service Providers are either using or planning to use Dataverse as their repository platform. In 2023 the Service Providers continued to actively exchange experiences, ideas and solutions about Dataverse in the context of CESSDA. Updates in CDC and the CESSDA Metadata Validator allowed metadata records from Service Providers using Dataverse to be added to the CDC endpoint, enabling inclusion of these records in data catalogues that harvest metadata from CDC, as long as the records contain the required metadata elements. Disabling the enforcement of XSD schema validation made the CDC validator more tolerant of DDI2.5 records derived from Dataverse.

CESSDA Standards: Metadata

CESSDA released a new version of the CESSDA Metadata Validator (CMV) that validates DDI metadata documents against a given profile. CMV was enhanced with new features to improve the user experience. It detects and reports any constraint violations (violations of the rules defined in the selected profile) and XSD Schema violations, enabling the metadata to be improved if necessary. New metadata profiles for DDI 2.6 and DDI 3.3 were released, allowing metadata creators that use this format to benefit from the support that the CMV provides. In addition, other DDI profiles were updated, fixing several issues.[15]

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14   https://vocabularies.cessda.eu
15   https://cmv.cessda.eu/#!validation

Trust & Landscape

The CESSDA Trust Working Group mission derives from the Service Providers' obligations under Annex II Obligation 7 to "Adhere to the principles of the Open Archival Information System reference model and any agreed CESSDA ERIC requirements for operating trusted repositories".[16]

Highlights in 2023

The Trust Working Group activities, led by GESIS in 2023, aimed to respond to Service Provider requests for support in obtaining CoreTrustSeal by offering internal CESSDA peer support and guidance. This assistance is accessible to Service Providers, whether they are seeking CoreTrustSeal for the first time or renewing certification, facilitating their compliance with Annex II obligations for CESSDA membership. This initiative streamlines and standardises responses from CESSDA members, benefiting both CESSDA and the efficiency of the certification process. Recognised as Certified Trustworthy Digital Repositories (TDR), these repositories play a crucial role in the research lifecycle and infrastructure. Representatives from ADP, AUSSDA, CSDA, DANS, FSD, GESIS, SND, and UKDS provided peer-to-peer support to Service Providers preparing for their CoreTrustSeal application. To support this work going forward, a Standard Operating Procedure and a monitoring template were developed to help keep in touch with the Service Providers and provide the best possible support for their needs.

Mentorship Programme

Highlights in 2023

In 2023, the Mentorship Programme aimed to advance collaboration and knowledge exchange among CESSDA members and partner Service Providers. The work was led by FORS (Switzerland), with CSDA (Czechia) reviewing and agreeing on key steps. Significant efforts were directed towards refining the mentorship process in alignment with the strategy developed the previous year and cultivating collaborative partnerships to broaden participation. One mentorship of CSDA for the Ukrainian partners (see the previous chapter on the support of the Social Science Data Archiving in the Ukraine. A collaboration between CROSSDA (Croatia), FORS (Switzerland), FSD (Finland), Sikt (Norway), and SND (Sweden) on data citation, roadmap development and future recommendations.

Data citation is crucial to enhance the visibility and recognition of data collection and sharing and the promotion of proper author attribution, scholarly acknowledgement and integrity.

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16   https://public.ccsds.org/Pubs/650x0m2.pdf

Training & Outreach

The CESSDA Data Archiving Guide

The Data Archiving Guide (DAG) stands as a robust resource, maintained and actively utilised by multiple Service Providers. In 2023 DANS (Netherlands) led the work on DAG, focusing on promotion and update of the chapters. Having already released five informative chapters, the DAG is set to undergo further improvements with refreshed visuals that align seamlessly with its content. These updates will assure an enhanced user experience. Beyond these visual enhancements, there are plans for ongoing user engagement and maintenance, ensuring that the DAG remains a reliable and contemporary guide for the long term. Stay tuned for an enriched and user-friendly Data Archiving Guide experience in the near future.[17]
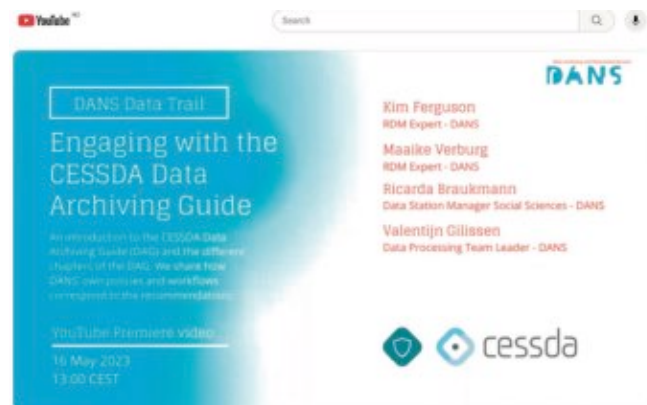
Fig 9. A video on engaging with the CESSDA Data Archiving Guide published by DANS in 2023

CESSDA Resource Directory - an Information Tool for Data Archive Professionals

In 2023, the goal for the Resource Directory (RD) was to initiate the migration process from the Zotero platform to the CESSDA website, aiming to improve both visibility and usage. This included a thorough examination of the metadata model, the organisation of Zotero metadata for export, and the creation of both front-end and back-end platforms. Testing revealed the need for additional enhancements, and it is expected that ongoing efforts will extend into 2024 before the RD on CESSDA website becomes operational. FORS, the CESSDA Swiss archive, spearheaded this initiative for CESSDA, with collaborative contributions from CROSSDA in Croatia and SND in Sweden.

The RD primarily collects resources from past and current CESSDA projects and activities, as well as from CESSDA member and partner Service Providers, and beyond. Only high-quality, reliable, and up-to-date resources with developed content in English are included. The resources are accessible via DOIs or web links, as no resource is physically attached to the RD. While the focus of the collection is on data archiving in social sciences, the RD is also open to adapting and extending its scope to cover new areas and interdisciplinary research. The RD already includes over 600 resources.[18]

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17   DANS video on use of the Data Archiving Guide, published in 2023: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZu74an4mnA
18   Focus article from 2023 on CESSDA research data management: https://www.cessda.eu/News/CESSDA-Newsitem-nid3472

CESSDA Data Management Expert Guide

The Data Management Expert Guide (DMEG) stands as a valuable resource within CESSDA, aiding social science researchers in fostering FAIR data practices and addressing challenges throughout the data life cycle.

In 2023, AUSSDA brought attention to intriguing DMEG chapters through CESSDA ERIC's X account and conducted a webinar focused on a key DMEG topic of Creating a Data Management Plan (DMP).[19] DMPs, imperative not only for compliance with funding agencies but also as essential tools for structuring ongoing research data management within projects, took the spotlight.

Fig 10. A webinar on CESSDA DMEG was held in November 2023

AUSSDA, in collaboration with DANS, DASSI, DCS, ISSDA, GESIS, and SND, established key structures to further enhance the DMEG by working on content updates, and introducing a form for streamlining the future collection of European Diversity sections within DMEG. Simultaneously, steps to address gaps in training materials by updating PowerPoint slides accompanying each DMEG chapter were identified and initiated in 2023, to improve the user-experience.

Widening the Perimeter of Data

Sharing Social Media Data: The Role of Past Experiences, Attitudes, Norms, and Perceived Behavioral Control

CESSDA funded a survey on researchers' experiences with social media data (SMD), resulting in the article "Sharing Social Media Data: The Role of Past Experiences, Attitudes, Norms, and Perceived Behavioral Control," published in Frontiers in Big Data.[20] The study, part of the CESSDA project on Widening the Parameters for New Data Types led by GESIS (Germany) involved collaboration with national Service Providers from Croatia, the Czech Republic, Greece, and Switzerland.

The article explores researchers' attitudes regarding SMD and the benefits and risks associated with sharing information on SMD. The study underscores the importance of providing clear guidelines and

Fig 11. Article on Sharing Social Media Data published on Frontiers

support for researchers utilising SMD, and of developing tools and infrastructures to facilitate easier sharing. The open-access article can be accessed online.

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19   Material from the webinar: https://www.cessda.eu/Training-Resources/Resource-crd-3737
20   https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fdata.2022.971974/full. The survey data is available under DOI: 10.7802/2418

Crossing Borders Without Leaving – Sharing Secure Data Internationally

Recent efforts, including projects like the International Data Access Network (IDAN) and the Social Science and Humanities Open Cloud (SSHOC), have paved the way for collaborations facilitating secure international data sharing. Traditionally, secure/controlled data access has been confined to Trusted Research Environments (TRE), posing challenges for international researchers. The UK Data Service and GESIS in Germany achieved a milestone by establishing a remote connection between their Secure Facilities, allowing researchers to access confidential data without physical transfer. The initiative's first success involved UK-based researchers utilising GESIS data, demonstrating the efficacy of this novel approach and opening avenues for further international collaborations. The process involves accreditation, project application, Safe Researcher Training, and Safe Room visits. Notable datasets, such as the British Household Panel Study and Understanding Society, are accessible through this initiative. The authors invite researchers to explore this new research opportunity and highlight the potential for advancing collaborative research on sensitive data.[21]

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21 Full article can be found here: https://blog.ukdataservice.ac.uk/sharing-secure-data/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=cessda_newsletter_launching_our_strategy_2023_2027&utm_term=2023-10-05

CESSDA's Strategic EC Projects

Over the years, the CESSDA Consortium has been a dedicated contributor to several vital projects, each playing a crucial role in supporting the European Commission's commitment to fostering innovation and partnership.

In 2023, CESSDA was involved in 10 EU funded projects. These projects contributed to CESSDA´s framework for involvement in the European Research Area (ERA). They have three major goals:

1. supporting the Europe-wide building of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)

2. joining relevant research data communities in their initiatives to work with social science data and data archiving, and

3. helping to build a stronger and healthier Research Infrastructure Landscape.
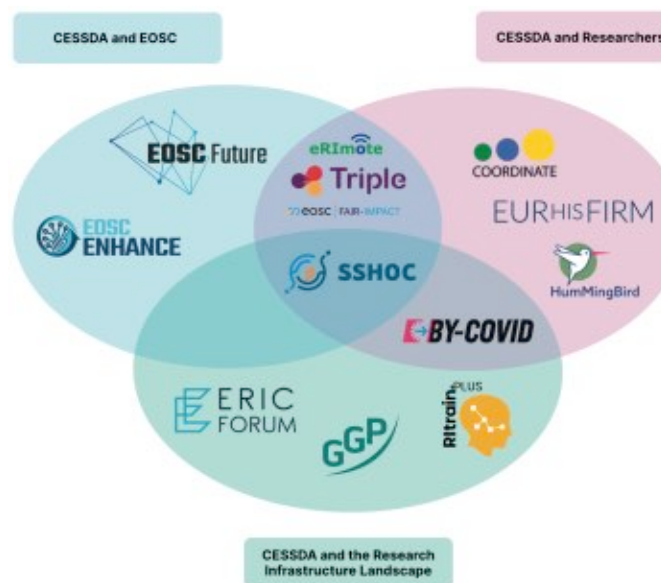
Figure 12: CESSDA's framework of involvement in the European Research Area (ERA) via EC projects.

CESSDA Supporting the Building of the EOSC

CESSDA's Service Providers and the Main Office were strongly represented at the 2023 EOSC Symposium in Madrid, Spain, participating in sessions as representatives of different EU funded projects: EOSC Future[22], BY-COVID[23], RItrainPlus[24] and FAIR-IMPACT[25]:

→ On day one, the Chair of the CESSDA Tools Working Group, Mari Kleemola from the Finnish Social Science Data Archive (FSD), discussed the challenges of the Social Sciences and Humanities Open Cloud project (SSHOC) highlighting the need for interoperability in research and learning from each other, as each

Fig 13. Mari Kleemola from TAU-FSD, Chair of the CESSDA Tools Working Group.

community has their own established traditions and practices that can be a challenge to interoperability.

→ CESSDA Platform Director John Shepherdson, leader of the work package responsible for EOSC's user-facing components in the EOSC Future project, presented an overview of the EOSC Portal's capabilities. The session explored its benefits to researchers across disciplines and outlined the mechanism for adding resources to the Marketplace.

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22   https://eoscfuture.eu/
23   https://by-covid.org/
24   http://ritrain.eu/home
25   https://fair-impact.eu/

→ On day two the Chair of the CESSDA Trust Working Group and member of the EOSC Association Long Term Data Preservation Task Force, Hervé L'Hours, co-chaired the data sharing and preservation session highlighting the importance of maintaining FAIR principles over time.[26] Outcomes of the EOSC-Association Task Force for Technical Interoperability of Data and Services were presented and included three examples of established interoperability frameworks in thematic communities and EOSC projects involving research infrastructures.[27] One of the examples was the SSH Conversion Hub, an

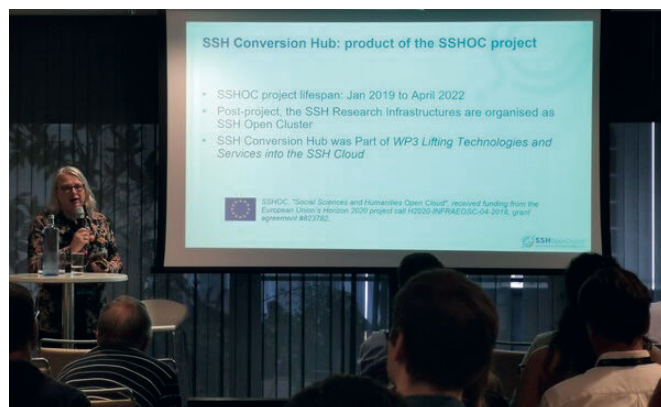

Fig 14. CESSDA MO representatives at the EOSC Symposium 2023 in Spain

outcome of the SSHOC project, coordinated by CESSDA. The Conversion Hub was presented by the CESSDA Tools Working Group Chair.[28]

→ Leaders of the support to the EOSC Steering Board Subgroup on Monitoring presented the work towards the creation of an EOSC Observatory and the monitoring of national investments towards EOSC.[29] CESSDA Main Office contributed and co-lead a task on the alignment with EU Member States and Associated Countries in the project, and produced several reports on the topic.[30]

→ On the third day, the session on the European alignment on skills and training session emphasised the need for competencies in open science and EOSC participation, via competence centres and data stewardship curricula. Maja Dolinar from the Slovenian Social Science Data Archive ADP, shared insights related to the RItrainPlus project, focusing on establishing a Research Infrastructures Community of Practice and developing curricula for RI experts.

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26 EOSC Long Term Data Preservation Task Force: https://eosc.eu/advisory-groups/long-term-data-preservation/
27 EOSC Association Long Term Data Preservation Task.
28 SSH Conversion hub: https://www.sshopencloud.eu/ssh-conversion-hub
29 https://eoscobservatory.eosc-portal.eu/home
30 Analysis of the 1st Survey on National Contributions to EOSC: https://zenodo.org/records/7410828 and Guidance on calculation of national financial contributions to EOSC: https://zenodo.org/records/7951324; Mapping of the EOSC Readiness of EU MS/AC:

EOSC Future

CESSDA´s contributions to building EOSC continued in 2023 via the EOSC Future project. Its aim is to deliver a platform with a durable set of user-friendly components that are designed for the long term. CESSDA participated in the activities of the EOSC Future Work Package on Project Strategy and EOSC Alignment by leading the deliverable on mapping the EOSC readiness of EU Member States and Associated Countries.

CESSDA Cloud Platform Director John Shepherdson co-led the work on EOSC user-facing components, focussing on continual service improvement process management and software quality assurance.[31]

CESSDA also participated in two of the EOSC Future Science Projects: One project dealt with the societal and scientific challenge of climate change and the environment with the CESSDA archives from Sweden (SND) and Slovenia (ADP) collaborating with Sikt (the Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research) and IAGOS ERIC. The project aims to contribute to the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities initiative by integrating data from the social sciences with climate and air quality data.

Figure 15. Two important reports for the EOSC Future Work Package on Project Strategy and EOSC Alignment, were published in 2023 with contribution from the CESSDA MO (Vanja Komljenovic and Martina Drascic Capar) and ADP (Irena Vipavc Brvar).

CESSDA, as part of the SSH Open Cluster, alongside ESS ERIC participated in the project access management for distributed research infrastructures included in the societal and scientific challenge "Access to data." CESSDA Service Providers DANS, AUSSDA, ADP and other partners heldtraining events within the EOSC Future project on various topics related to EOSC, Open Science and other project-specific themes. Training materials are accessible for asynchronous training and reuse at the OpenPlato platform and via the EOSC Knowledge Hub. [32] [33]

Fig. 16. John Shepherdson presenting CESSDA's work in the EOSC Future project.

31 https://eoscfuture.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/EOSC-Future-WP5-ICOS-D5.2a-Front-Office-Requirement-Analysis-2021-12-22.pdf
32 OpenPlato platform: https://openplato.eu/blocks/catalog/list.php
33 https://knowledge-hub.eosc-portal.eu/

CESSDA and FAIR IMPACT

The FAIR IMPACT project is coordinated by the Dutch Service Provider DANS. It supports the implementation and adoption of FAIR-enabling practices, tools and services across scientific communities at European, national and institutional levels.[34] CESSDA joined FAIR-IMPACT with the UK Data Service (UKDS) and the Norwegian Data Service (Sikt). Activities led to the publication of two key reports: Implementing metrics for automated FAIR digital objects assessment in a disciplinary context and Guidelines for repositories and registries on exposing repository trustworthiness status and FAIR data assessments outcomes, while as an integrated use-case partner CESSDA is targeted for further feedback on the new F-UJI release.[35] [36]

Figure 17. CESSDA joined the FAIR-IMPACT All Hands Meeting

CESSDA also joined the 'FAIR-IMPACT All Hands Meeting' in the Hague which gathered 90 project members from all over the world to assess the project's work and to prioritise the next activities. Finally, CESSDA participated in the 2023 edition of the FAIR-IMPACT Synchronisation Force workshop on PIDs.[37]

TRIPLE

The TRIPLE project concluded successfully in 2023. The consortium of 22 partners from 15 countries worked on developing the multilingual discovery service GoTriple, which covers 11 languages and 27 disciplines in the social sciences and humanities. The platform went live in 2023.

CESSDA MO joined together with UKDS, the ADP, and FSD the project teams in different capacities, from the creation of vocabularies to EOSC integration, training and dissemination.

Fig 18. CESSDA joined the TRIPLE Final conference in Bonn

Over the course of the project, different Open Science relevant results were built and published, such as multilingual vocabulary, the TRIPLE Training Toolkit, and a plethora of publications by the partners. A great achievement for CESSDA was to have metadata from the CESSDA Data Catalogue included in GoTriple.

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34   EOSC Policy Brief for FAIR-IMPACT.
35   https://zenodo.org/records/7784120
36   https://zenodo.org/records/10058634
37   FAIR-IMPACT Synchronisation Force: https://fair-impact.eu/synchronisation-force

CESSDA and the Social Sciences Research Communities

HumMingBird

The significance of migration as a social, political, and broader public concern has intensified significantly over the last few years. Migration is increasingly seen as a high-priority policy issue by many governments and within our societies. The HumMingBird project's overall objective is to improve the understanding of the changing nature of migration flows and the drivers of migration. Its main contribution will be in identifying migration data systems and the coherence of definitions, exploring the links between migration policies and migration dynamics, as well as considering ethical matters. The CESSDA team

Fig. 19. CESSDA team attended the two-day conference in VUB and EU Parliament

consists of the Main Office and two Service Providers, IEN, the Institute of Social Sciences in Serbia, and EKKE, the National Center for Social Research in Greece, and leads data management for the project. One of the deliverables, for which the CESSDA team is responsible is a thematic Migration Data Catalogue, to form part of the CESSDA Data Catalogue.

In 2023 The HumMingBird project worked with co-organisers from the European Parliament and the European Commission, in collaboration with two other Horizon 2020 projects - FUME, and QuantMig - on a conference that took place on 26th-27th April 2023 in Brussels. The conference discussed likely patterns around future migration to Europe.

Another highlight of 2023 was the two-day HumMingBird workshop in November 2023 in Athens, organised by EKKE and the Hellenic Sociological Society. The workshop focussed on migrants' lived

Fig 20. HumMingBird Workshop organised by EKKE

experiences, exploring their diverse and often challenging narratives, motivations, expectations, and mobility experiences en route to Europe.

Throughout 2023, the team from IEN, Serbia, conducted interviews with NGOs and government representatives and finalised a field report Field reports on migrants en route: Field reports on Rome, Madrid, Istanbul, Bihac, Belgrade, and Calais. This report examined six hubs that play a crucial role in migration to and within Europe and the EU, and IEN contributed with a field report on the situation of migrants and refugees in Serbia.[38]

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38   Report is available here: https://hummingbird-h2020.eu/i

COORDINATE

The Coordinate project aims to fill the gaps in the availability of robust and suitable data for the monitoring and evaluation of child wellbeing in Europe. A consortium meeting and international Conference was held in Florence.

The Slovenian Social Science Data Archives (ADP) leads the training and outreach aspects, and has conducted a Data Management workshop in Ljubljana in March addressing ethical and legal aspects through use cases and a GDPR expert from the Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research (Sikt).

The Croatian Social Science Data Archive (CROSSDA) hosted successful statistical courses in Zagreb and online in 2023 with materials published on the project

Fig 21. COORDINATE meeting in Florence 2023. From left to right: Panagiota Starida (CESSDA MO), Sonja Bezjak (ADP), Marijana Glavica (CROSSDA), Irena Vipavc Brvar (ADP), Markus Tuominen (FSD).

page. The Finnish Social Science Data Archive (FSD) leads the work package on enhancing findability and the setup of the COORDINATE data portal. Built on CESSDA ERIC Data Catalogue codebase, a demo version is operational, running on the CESSDA Cloud. The portal aims to make European child and youth wellbeing data more accessible, findable, and reusable.

CESSDA's Support to the Research Infrastructure Landscape

RItrainPlus

The project is to design and deliver a training programme to address the competency requirements for current and future managers in scientific institutions, of research infrastructures and core facilities. In July 2023 the project launched its first management training programme to strengthen managerial capabilities. It attracted high interest with 277 applications from over 40 countries.

CESSDA Main Office participated in the activities on training, and communication and outreach connecting to the EU Science Clusters ENVRI-FAIR, PaNOSC, ESCAPE, SSHOC and EOSC-Life to identify their management training needs and inform them directly of the training opportunities developed in the project.

The Austrian Social Science Data Archive (AUSSDA) has engaged in the development of pilot courses following a successful mapping study. This study aimed to gain comprehensive insights into tasks, challenges, and required skill sets across research infrastructures. As part of this initiative, AUSSDA designed a science communication course. The Slovenian Social Science Data Archives (ADP) is leading the community of practice which several online events and a workshop on the topics such as:

→ How to prepare for a review meeting: Tips and tricks (in collaboration with CESSDA's Main Office and DANS, the Dutch Service Provider).
→ Unlocking the potential of research infrastructures for successful collaboration with industry: Identifying the right people and attracting them.
→ EOSC portal and marketplace.

→ Turning diversity into an asset in your research environment.

→ Accesses in experimental RI.[39]

GGP-5D

CESSDA joined the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP-5D) to provide assistance towards the its set up as a permanent research infrastructure with its own legal entity. GGP is an interdisciplinary research infrastructure on population and family dynamics that collects, processes and disseminates cross-nationally comparable longitudinal data on young adults, families, generational exchanges, and the life courses of women and men.

CESSDA supports the data preservation and archiving of GGP data based on CESSDA's standards and brings

Fig 22. CESSDA joined the GGP-5D meeting in Warsaw

in CESSDA experience as an ESFRI landmark. In September 2023, CESSDA Main Office representatives joined the kick-off meeting in Warsaw and shared CESSDA's insights on budgeting, legal framework development, the alignment with CESSDA metadata standards and utilisation of CESSDA tools.

ERIC Forum Implementation Project II

The ERICs organised in the ERIC Forum represents one of the leading science policy voices in Europe. Following the successful establishment and implementation of the ERIC Forum (2019-2022), additional efforts are required to solidify its accomplishments and enhance the coordination and monitoring of the ERICs. The ERIC Forum II project, initiated in 2023, aims to facilitate collaboration among ERICs, support the implementation of the ERIC Regulation and ERICs' services, and strengthen the integration of the ERICs within the European Research Area by enhancing the ERIC Forum's contribution to research policies. This project presents a significant opportunity for CESSDA ERIC, not only to strengthen connections with other ERICs and stakeholders but also to address concrete challenges and bottlenecks faced by ERICs, creating a more robust and sustainable ERIC for our members.

CESSDA takes pride in its considerable contribution to the entire project, actively participating in 16 out of the 20 work packages and co-leading policy-related activities. CESSDA's involvement will focus on various aspects, including the development of an online platform, the implementation of ERIC regulations, policy and research strategy, a capacity-building program for ERIC personnel upskilling, shared services among ERICs, as well as communication and coordination. The CESSDA team participated in the kick-off in September 2023, and work on the respective work packages has commenced.

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39 https://ritrainplus.eu/join-the-events-of-ritrainplus-community-of-practice/

CESSDA and Science Advice

BY-COVID

The BY-COVID project has published a policy brief in May 2023 summarising preliminary results, with policy recommendations to further pandemic preparedness.[40] The CESSDA Data Catalogue is highlighted as one of the data resources in the COVID-19 Data Portal. The project is strongly linked to EOSC Partnerships in the health domain, the development of the European Health Data Space (EHDS) and the European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA). The collaboration across domains within the BY-COVID project, particularly involving social science

Fig 22. CESSDA joined the GGP-5D meeting in Warsaw

perspectives, allows for access to valuable insights into human behaviour, vulnerable populations, and the impact of different policies. This inclusive approach contributes to enhancing public health communication. By incorporating these insights into policymaking, there is an opportunity to develop more effective strategies for preventing and controlling infectious diseases.

CESSDA is representing social sciences in BY-COVID in an unprecedented and unique interdisciplinary effort with Service Providers from DANS, FSD, and EKKE (the National Center for Social Research in Greece). By the end of 2023, the CESSDA Data Catalogue and the EU COVID19 data catalogue had been integrated under the European COVID19 Data Portal[41]. There are more than 500 data sources available in the Portal from the CESSDA Data Catalogue (May 2023).

Furthermore, CESSDA contributed in populating the socioeconomics section of the Infectious Diseases Toolkit. [42]

The Finnish Data Archive has also explored metadata from the ERIC ECRIN and published its results in a research article ´ECRIN – CESSDA strategies for cross metadata mappings in selected areas between life sciences and social sciences and humanities´[43]. The study is looking at the description of resources

Fig 24. BY COVID webinars by the CESSDA team

stored in repositories/registries in the social sciences and humanities and clinical research. The results of the study show that there are considerable resemblances between metadata schemas and vocabularies. This is seen as a promising starting point to implement common search mechanisms for the social sciences and humanities and clinical research.

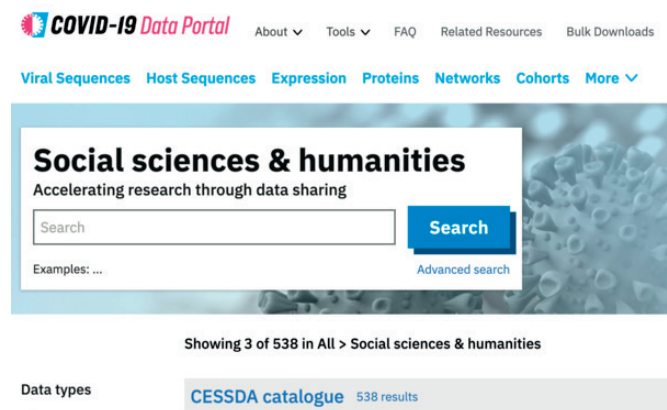40 https://zenodo.org/records/7940608#.ZGNePi_MJqs
41 https://www.covid19dataportal.org/search/social-sciences
42 https://www.infectious-diseases-toolkit.org/data-sources/socioeconomic-data
43 https://open-research-europe.ec.europa.eu/articles/3-180/v2

In April 2023 DANS organised a BY-COVID workshop to promote the use of socioeconomic data in vaccine and infectious disease research, producing a workshop report.[44] DANS contributed to work on how socioeconomic aspects can be integrated into the workflow of the Baseline Use Case and contributed to a paper published in the peer-reviewed journal BMC Medical Research Methodology.[45] Finally, a high-profile event on open science for pandemic preparedness took place in Brussels in December 2023.

eRImote and Workshop on Governance, Policy, Funding, and Impact

CESSDA participates in the eRimote project - the first to consider solutions for digital and remote service provision across RI domains and to look for transferable practices and new developments that will improve the accessibility and resilience of RI infrastructures. CESSDA is joined in the project by two Service Providers, the UK Data Service (UKDS) and the Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences (FORS). In April CESSDA participated in a workshop in London organised by UKDS, CESSDA, the CESSDA Main Office and project partners. The workshop discussed the governance, policy, funding and impact implications of increased remote/digital access to research infrastructure services.

A wide range of speakers and attendees came from different research communities, ERICs, the ERIC Forum, the European Commission and the EOSC Association. The findings will contribute to a Green Paper on challenges to remote access provision and strategies to overcome them.

CESSDAs UK data archive, UKDS, leads the expert group on data sharing, access, and security. The group focuses on managing timely data access, ensuring security, and meeting data owner obligations. Two meetings held in 2023 focused on data classification models, and user and RI staff authentication and authorisation.

Fig 25. Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch introduces the topic of governance in relation to remote access.

Fig 26. CESSDA representatives, Darren Bell from UKDS and Martina Drascic-Capar at the mid-term consortium meeting in Strasbourg in June.

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44   https://zenodo.org/records/8234104
45   https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s12874-023-02068-3?utm_source=rct_congratemailt&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=oa_20231023&utm_content=10.1186/s12874-023-02068-3

Towards New Initiatives in Horizon Europe

CESSDA has been invited to join several EC project proposals due to its past engagement and successful cross-disciplinary collaborations. By the end of 2023 seven new project proposals were approved, six of which have a start date in 2024:

➜ **ERIC Forum project continuation**

➜ **Infra4NextGen (providing research infrastructure services to support next generation EU).**

➜ **O.S.C.A.R.S. (Open Science Clusters' Action for Research and Society).**

➜ **OSTrails (Open Science Plan-Track-Assess Pathways).**

➜ **EOSC Beyond (EOSC Beyond: advancing innovation and collaboration for research) and**

➜ **EOSC-ENTRUST (A European Network of TRUSTed research environments).**

➜ **QUANTUM (Quality, Utility and Maturity Measured; Developing a Data Quality and Utility Label for HealthData@EU).**

Communications Activities

Country Highlights Campaign

In 2023 CESSDA presented the 'country highlights' campaign by releasing 'spotlight' articles and videos from interviews with various CESSDA Service Providers and partners to promote the work of its national data archives. Each interview offered unique insights into the diverse national experiences within the CESSDA network. Some spotlight articles focussed on:

→ GESIS - Spotlight on the Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences.[46]

→ ADP - Spotlight on the Slovenian Social Science Data Archives.[47]

→ AUSSDA - Spotlight on the Austrian Social Science Data Archive.[48]

→ DANS - Spotlight on the Data Archiving and Networked Services.[49]

→ ISSK-BAS - Spotlight on the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.[50]

→ FORS: Spotlight on the Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences.[51]

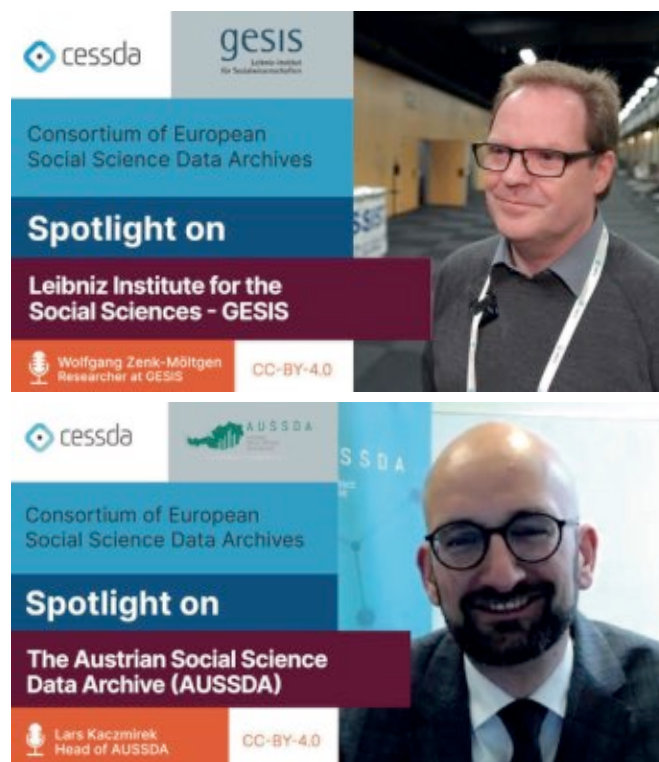*Fig 27. Spotlight on the GESIS and AUSSDA published in September and October 2023*

46 https://www.cessda.eu/News/CESSDA-Newsitem-nid3586
47 https://www.cessda.eu/News/CESSDA-Newsitem-nid3589
48 https://www.cessda.eu/News/CESSDA-Newsitem-nid3598
49 https://www.cessda.eu/News/CESSDA-Newsitem-nid3612
50 https://www.cessda.eu/News/CESSDA-Newsitem-nid3591
51 https://www.cessda.eu/News/CESSDA-Newsitem-nid3592

Member States Videos and Podcasts

CESSDA also interviewed CESSDA Member States representatives. Interviews were published on social media providing the national perspective from policy makers and ministry representatives such as Member Country representative Matthias Reiter-Pázmándy from Austria and Olja Toljagic from Norway. The full list of interviews can be found on spotify.[52]
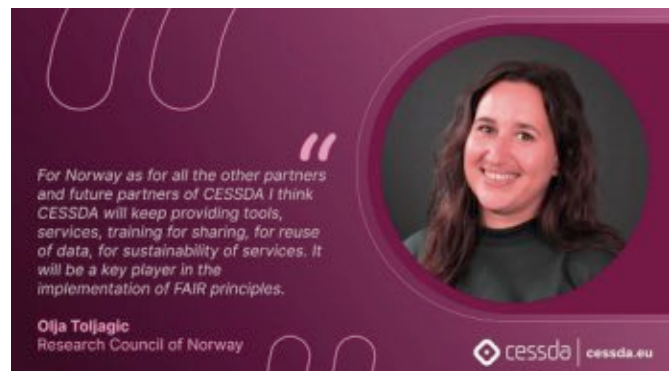
CESSDA Website

In 2023 CESSDA website news section was populated with 40 different news pieces, spanning announcements, dissemination of EU project results and calls, different strategic events and new releases of CESSDA tools.

Fig 28. CESSDA website word cloud from 2023

CESSDA Newsletter

CESSDA reorganised the content of its newsletter for more efficiency and better coverage of internal and external activities. An Editorial Board was created to help with this. In 2023 the CESSDA Newsletter had a stable number of 800+ subscribers.[53]

Fig 29. CESSDA Newsletters

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52 https://youtu.be/9_MESFTgNAY; https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/cessda/episodes/Interview-with-CESSDA-Member-Country-Representative-Olja-Toljagic-Norway-e29jsqi/a-aacpkkl

53 https://www.cessda.eu/Newsletters

Financial statements 2023

Income Statement (EUR)

Operating income and expenses	Note	2023	2022
Operating income	1	1 887 930	1 882 678
Total operating income		**1 887 930**	**1 882 678**
Operating expenses			
Payroll expense	2	477 308	860 690
Correction of prior period errors	3	300 222	0
Other operating expenses		860 962	582 643
Total operating expenses		**1 638 492**	**1 443 333**
Operating profit/loss		**249 437**	**439 344**
Financial income and expenses			
Other interest income		37 701	394
Other financial income		333 295	8 280
Other interest expenses		0	9 080
Other financial expenses		380 485	2 723
Net financial income and expenses		**-9 488**	**-3 130**
Annual net result		**239 950**	**436 215**
From/to other equity		0	0
Net brought forward		**239 950**	**436 215**

Balance Sheet (EUR)

Assets	Note	2023	2022
Current assets			
Receivables			
Accounts receivables		0	26 216
Other short-term receivables	4	156 985	491 366
Total receivables		**156 985**	**517 582**
Bank deposits, cash and cash equivalents			
Bank deposits, cash and cash equivalents	5	1 409 870	1 350 038
Total bank deposits, cash and cash equivalents		**1 409 870**	**1 350 038**

Assets	Note	2023	2022
Total current assets		**1 566 855**	**1 867 619**
Total assets		**1 566 855**	**1 867 619**

Balance Statement (EUR)

Equity and liabilities	Note	2023	2022
Equity			
Other equity		845 051	605 099
Total retained earnings		845 051	605 099
Total equity		**845 051**	**605 099**
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade payables		165 132	61 600
Public duties payable		40 421	63 204
Other current liabilities	4	516 251	1 137 716
Total current liabilities		**721 804**	**1 262 520**
Total liabilities		**721 804**	**1 262 520**
Total equity and liabilities		**1 566 855**	**1 867 619**

Accounting Principles

The annual accounts have been prepared in conformity with the Accounting Act and NRS 8 - Good accounting practice for small companies.

Foreign Currency

Monetary foreign currency items are valued at the exchange rate on the balance sheet date.

Operating Revenues and Expenses

Revenues consist mainly of grants and project revenues. Received payments related to activities not carried out at year-end are recognised in the balance sheet as unearned income and classified as other short-term debt.

Expenses are recognised in accordance with the matching principle. This means that expenses are recognised

in the same period as the related income.

Revenues from EC projects are recognised according to submitted financial reports approved by EC or other direct cost which will be covered by pre-financing from EC.

Tax

CESSDA ERIC is a non-profit organisation and is not liable for corporation tax in accordance with the Tax Law § 2-32.

Classification and Valuation of Fixed Assets

Fixed assets include assets included for long-term ownership and use. Fixed assets are valued at acquisition cost. Property, plant and equipment are entered in the balance sheet and depreciated over the asset's economic lifetime. The depreciation period for real property acquired after 2009 is divided into the part that represents the building and the part that represents fixed technical installations. Property, plant and equipment are written down to a recoverable amount in the case of fall in value which is expected not to be temporary. The recoverable amount is the higher of the net sale value and value in use. Value in use is the present value of future cash flows related to the asset. Write-downs are reversed when the basis for the write-down is no longer present.

Classification and Valuation of Current Assets

Current assets and short-term liabilities normally include items that fall due for payment within one year of the balance sheet date, as well as items that relate to the stock cycle. Current assets are valued at the lower of acquisition cost and fair value.

Receivables

Receivables from customers and other receivables are entered at par value after deducting a provision for expected losses. The provision for losses is made on the basis of an individual assessment of the respective receivables.

Pension

The Norwegian branch has established a defined benefit pension scheme. The pension premium is classified as a payroll expense.

NOTES

Note 1 - Revenues

Breakdown of income	2023	2022
Members´ contributions	1 819 195	1 882 678

Other Grant income	68 735	0
Total	**1 887 930**	**1 882 678**

Note 2 - Salary Costs and Number of Man-Years

Salary costs	2023	2022
Salaries	480 273	643 866
Employment tax	80 603	113 519
Pension costs	42 304	81 297
Other benefits	11 337	22 008
Salary costs related to EC projects	- 137 209	
Total	**477 308**	**860 690**

Hired labour of EUR 180 738 is classified as other expenses.

In 2022 the company employed 7 man-years.

Note 3 – Correction of prior period errors

Correction of prior period errors mainly relates to maintenance, MDO and Agenda tasks for 2021 and 2022.

Note 4 - EC Projects

EC Projects	2023	2022
EC projects; pre-financing, received as at 31.12	-424 720	-988 831
EC projects; accrued costs as at 31.12	103 691	475 660
Net EC projects	**-321 029**	**-513 172**

Note 5 - Bank Deposits

Bank deposits	2023	2022
Restricted cash-employee tax deduction funds	15 375	29 959
Restricted cash-deposit funds	30 881	34 502
Bank deposits in NOK	66 218	60 710
Bank deposits in EUR	1 297 395	1 224 866
Total bank deposits	**1 409 870**	**1 350 038**

CESSDA ERIC has a currency risk associated with the exchange rate developments. Allocated funding to projects is paid in Euro. The bank deposits are in Norwegian Kroner and Euro.

Annex 1: CESSDA ERIC Members, Observers and Service Providers in 2023

Country	Representing entity	Service Provider	GA Delegates	SPF Delegates
Austria	Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBFW)	**AUSSDA** - The Austrian Social Science Data Archive	Matthias Reiter-Pázmándy, BMBWF (Vice-Chair) Bettina Glaser, BMBWF(deputy) Lars Kaczmirek, AUSSDA	Lars Kaczmirek
Belgium	BELSPO - Belgian Scientific Policy Office	**SOHDA** - Social Sciences and Humanities Data Archive	Aziz Naji, BELSPO	Benjamin Peuch (until August) Johan Van Der Eycken Oliver Lenaerts (from August 2023)
Croatia	Ministry of Science and Education	**CROSSDA** - Croatian Social Science Data Archive	Jelena Ilic Dreven, Staša Skenžić, Ministry of Science and Education	Marijana Glavica
Czech Republic	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	**CSDA** - Czech Social Science Data Archive	Naďa Dřizga, Ministry of Education and Sport, Jindřich Krejčí CSDA	Jindřich Krejčí Yana Leontiyeva
Finland	Academy of Finland	**FSD** - Finnish Social Science Data Archive	Vilma Lehtinen, Academy of Finland Mari Kleemola, FSD	Helena Laaksonen Mari Kleemola
France	Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Research	**PROGEDO/CNRS**	Fabrice Boudjaaba, CNRS Johanna Etner Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Research	Sebastien Oliveau (until 31.12.23), CNRS Ami Saji, CNRS
Germany	Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)	**GESIS** - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences	Miriam Schriefers, DLR Project Management Agency; Katharina Pijnenburg, BMBF Alexia Katsanidou, GESIS	Libby Bishop
Greece	Greek Research Infrastructure for the Social Sciences	**So.Da.Net**	John Kallas Dimitra Kondyli	Dimitra Kondyli
Hungary	The National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NRDI Office - NKFIH)	**TÁRKI** Foundation	Péter Aranyi, NKFIH Péter Hegedűs, TARKI	Péter Hegedűs

Country	Representing entity	Service Provider	GA Delegates	SPF Delegates
Iceland	Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation of Iceland	**DATICE** - Social Science Research Institute	Guðbjörg Andrea Jónsdóttir, Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation of Iceland	Örnólfur Thorlacius (until May 2023) Kjartan Olafsson (from May 2023)
Ireland	Irish Research Council	**ISSDA** - Irish Social Science Data Archive	Rosemary Sweeney, Research Council	Vanessa Buckley
Italy	Ministry of Universities and Research; entity - Consiglio nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR)	**DASSI** - Data Archive Social Sciences Italy	Mario Paolucci, CNR Saverio Foti, CNR	Sonia Stefanizzi
Netherlands	The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)	**DANS** - Data Archiving and Networked Services	Joris Voskuilen, NWO Ingrid Dillo, DANS (until November 2023) Anja Smit, DANS (from November 2023)	Ricarda Braukmann Ingrid Dillo
North Macedonia	Ministry of Education and Science	Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje	Borco Aleksov, Ministry Education and Science	Aneta Cekikj
Norway	Research Council of Norway (RCN)	**Sikt** - Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research	Olja Toljagic, RCN, Vigdis Kvalheim, Sikt	Vigdis Kvalheim Bodil Agasøster
Portugal	Institute of Social Science, University of Lisbon	**APIS** - Portuguese Archive of Social Information	Pedro Moura Ferreira, APIS Jose Manuel Mendes, Centre for Social Studies	Jose Manuel Mendes Pedro Moura Ferreira
Serbia	Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MPN)	**DCS** - Data Centre Serbia for Social Sciences	Aleksandra Bradić-Martinović, DCS Marija Velickovic, MPN	Aleksandra Bradić-Martinović
Slovakia	Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic	**SASD** - Slovak Archive of Social Data	Miloslav Bahna, Institute for Sociology of Slovak Academy of Sciences;	Miloslav Bahna Katarina Strapcova
Slovenia	Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (MIZs)	**ADP** - Social Science Data Archives	Albin Kralj, MIZs Janez Štebe, ADP	Janez Štebe Irena Vipavc Brvar
Sweden	Swedish Research Council (SRC)	**SND** - Swedish National Data Service	Susanna Bylin, SRC Kenneth Nelson, Stockholm University	Iris Alfredsson

Country	Representing entity	Service Provider	GA Delegates	SPF Delegates
Switzerland	FORS – the Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences	**FORS**	Katharina Eggenberger, SERI (until 10 July 2023) Lea Bühlmann, SERI (from 10 July 2023) Brian Kleiner, FORS	Brian Kleiner Alexandra Stam
United Kingdom	BEIS - Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy	**UKDS** - UK Data Service	Richard Welpton, ESRC UKRI, Darren Bell, UKDS	Herve L'Hours Darren Bell